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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT

Organization of the Bulgarian Armed Forces (equipment + location)

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organization,

equipment and location of the Bulgarian armed forces.

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**THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (BNA)**



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The Bulgarian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air) totaled 175,000 men in 1957-1958.

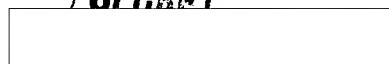
1959

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air)   | 150,000 |
| Militia, Border Militia, Special Police  | 80,000  |
| The Paramilitary Organization "DOSO" (Dobrovolna org za Sudeystvie na Otbranata, Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation) | 240,000 |
| Strength Established by the Peace Treaty   | 65,000  |
| Army Commands  | 3       |
| Motorized Infantry Divistios   | 4       |
| Infantry Divisions   | 4       |
| Armored Divisions  | 2       |
| Mechanized Divisions   | 1       |
| Cavalry Divisions  | 1       |
| Air Fighter Divisions  | 2       |
| Air Bomber Divisions   | 1       |
| Naval Squadrons  | 2       |



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Border Troops Brigades 5

Militia-Police Regiments 8

GROUND FORCES

ARMY COMMANDS

FIRST ARMY (formerly the FOURTH ARMY)

Motorized Infantry Divisions 2

Infantry Divisions 1

Armored Divisions 1

Motorized Heavy Artillery Brigades 1

Army AA Artillery Brigades 1

Antitank Artillery Regiments 1

Motor Transport Regiments 1

Signal Corps Regiments 1

Engineer Regiments 1

Cavalry Regiments 1

Troop Training Regiments 1

Technical Services Regiments 1

Quartermaster Regiments 1

Medical Corps Regiments 1

ABC Defense Brigades 1

SECOND ARMY

Motorized Infantry Divisions 1

Infantry Divisions 1

Armored Divisions 1

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|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Motorized Heavy Artillery Brigades | 1 |
| Army AA Artillery Brigades         | 1 |
| Antitank Artillery Regiments       | 1 |
| Motor Transport Regiments          | 1 |
| Engineer Regiments                 | 1 |
| Cavalry Regiments                  | 1 |
| Troop Training Regiments           | 1 |
| Signal Corps Units                 | 1 |
| Medical Corps Units                | 1 |
| Technical Services Units           | 1 |
| Quartermaster Units                | 1 |
| ABC Defense Units                  | 1 |

**THIRD ARMY**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Motorized Infantry Divisions | 1 |
| Infantry Divisions           | 2 |
| Mechanized Divisions         | 1 |

Note: In 1957, this was a Mechanized Brigade but transformed into a Mechanized Division in 1958.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Motorized Heavy Artillery Brigades | 1 |
| Army AA Artillery Brigades         | 1 |
| Antitank Artillery Regiments       | 1 |
| Motor Transport Regiments          | 1 |
| Signal Corps Regiments             | 1 |

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| Engineer Regiments                     | 1 |
| Cavalry Regiments                      | 1 |
| Troop Training Regiments               | 1 |
| Medical Corps Regiments                | 1 |
| Artillery Technical Services Regiments | 1 |
| Quartermaster Regiments                | 1 |
| ABC Defense Regiments                  | 1 |

Note: By the State Law of December 1958, the ARMY COMMANDS are to be changed into ARMY CORPS COMMANDS to "bring them in line with the large ground units" of the other Armed Forces in the Warsaw Military Pact. This change was probably to be carried out by the first part of 1960.

Tables of Organization

INFANTRY DIVISIONS: Strength, 11,000 men

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Reconnaissance Car Battalions           | 1 |
| Medium Tank Battalions                  | 1 |
| Signal Corps Battalions                 | 1 |
| Medical Corps Battalions                | 1 |
| Engineer Battalions                     | 1 |
| Artillery Technical Services Battalions | 1 |
| AA Artillery Groups                     | 1 |
| Military Police Battalions              | 1 |
| Infantry Regiments                      | 3 |
| Artillery Regiments                     | 2 |

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Note: The strength of the Motorized Infantry Divisions and the Infantry Divisions is the same: 11,000 men.

ARMORED DIVISIONS: Strength, 10,500 men

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Reconnaissance Car Battalions        | 1 |
| Signal Corps Battalions              | 1 |
| Engineer Battalions                  | 1 |
| Medical Corps Battalions             | 1 |
| Motor Transport Battalions           | 1 |
| Katushka Rocket Artillery Battalions | 1 |
| Antitank Artillery Groups            | 1 |
| Military Police Battalions           | 1 |
| Technical Services Battalions        | 1 |
| Armored Regiments                    | 3 |
| Motorized Infantry Regiments         | 1 |
| Mortar Artillery Regiments           | 1 |
| AA Artillery Regiments               | 1 |

MECHANIZED DIVISIONS: Strength, 12,850 men

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Reconnaissance Car Battalions | 1 |
| Signal Corps Battalions       | 1 |
| Engineer Battalions           | 1 |
| Medical Corps Battalions      | 1 |
| Motor Transport Battalions    | 1 |
| Quartermaster Battalions      | 1 |
| Technical Services Battalions | 1 |

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Katushka Rocket Artillery Battalions | 1 |
| Military Police Battalions           | 1 |
| Mechanized Regiments                 | 3 |
| Armored Regiments                    | 2 |
| Artillery Regiments                  | 1 |
| Mortar Artillery Regiments           | 1 |
| AA Artillery Regiments               | 1 |

CAVALRY DIVISIONS: Strength, 5,000 men

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cavalry Regiments            | 3 |
| Antitank Artillery Regiments | 1 |

Note: There were 2 Cavalry Divisions in 1955-1956 but one was disbanded in 1956.

AIR DIVISIONS: Strength, 3,500 men

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Signal, Transmission, Air-Observation Battalions | 1 |
| Technical Services Battalions                    | 1 |
| Subsistence and Supply Services Battalions       | 1 |
| Radar Units                                      | 2 |
| Transport Companies                              | 1 |
| Military Police Companies                        | 1 |
| AA Artillery Regiments                           | 1 |
| Air Regiments                                    | 3 |
| Transport Squadrons                              | 1 |
| Air Reconnaissance Squadrons                     | 1 |
| Helicopter Squadrons                             | 1 |
| Air Training Units                               | 1 |

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Soviet Arms Supplied to the BNA

Portable

pistols, 7.62-mm  
rifles and carbines, 7.62-mm  
submachine guns, 7.62-mm  
automatic rifles, 7.62-mm  
machine guns, 7.62-mm  
antitank rifles, 14.5-mm

Mortars

AA Artillery

AA machine guns, 12.7-mm  
automatic guns, 25-mm  
automatic guns, 37-mm  
guns (new delivery), 57-mm  
guns, 85-mm  
guns (new delivery), 100-mm

special mortars (recent  
delivery), 82-mm  
medium mortars, 82-mm  
heavy mortars, 120-mm

Antitank Artillery

guns, 57-mm  
guns, 76-mm  
guns (new delivery), 85-mm

Heavy Artillery

guns (new delivery), 100-mm  
gun-howitzers, 122-mm  
guns, 152-mm  
howitzers, 152-mm  
mortars (new delivery), 160-mm

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Rocket Artillery

Katushka, 132-mm



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Reconnaissance tanks

KV-47

T-34/76

Medium tanks

T-34/85

T-54/100 (new type)

Heavy tanks

JS-I

JS-II

JS-III

Assault guns

SU-85

SU-122

SU-152

Armored vehicles

BTR-152

Motor vehicles

SKODA

ZIS

ZIL

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Aircraft

Trainers

YAK-11

YAK-18

U-MIG-15

PO-2

Fighters

MIG-15

MIG-17 (rader)

YAK-23

Bombers

IL-10

PE-2

Transports

AN-2 (ANTONOV)

IL-14 (1958 delivery)

JU-52 (JUNKER)

Helicopters

MI-4

Miscellaneous types of aircraft (1946-1947 deliveries)

LAZ-7

LAZ-8

LI-2

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YAK-3

YAK-9

IL-2

IL-4

PE-4

PO-2 (POTEZ)

Navy

River gunboats (1958 delivery)

Note: a 350-ton river gunboat was delivered in 1958

Motor torpedo boats

PA-class 12

Minelayers

Former German 3

Note: One minelayer delivered in 1957

Submarines

M-4-class 3

Frigates (1957-1958 deliveries)

Riga-class 3

Cruisers [sic; destroyers]

Novik-class [listed as a destroyer in Soviet books] 1

Slavnyi-class [sic; Slavnyy; a destroyer of the 1

Otlichnyy-class]

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AIR BASES, CONSTRUCTED OR ENLARGED

They are the following military airfields: VIDIN (Soviet base),  
MOMARICA, VRAZHDEBNA, STARA ZAGORA, TOLBUKHIN (Soviet transit base),  
GORNA ORYAKHOVITSA, KARLOVO, GRAF IGNATIEVO, YAMBOL, PLOVDIV, TELISH,  
and BURGAS.

DEPLOYMENT OF GROUND FORCES IN THE BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV SECTOR

Bulgarian

First (formerly Fourth) Army Command: SOFIA

6th Motorized Infantry Division; Headquarters: VIDIN

Sector covered: VIDIN-KULA-VRATSA

1st Motorized Infantry Division; Headquarters: SOFIA

Sector covered: DIMITROVO-SOFIA-ISKRETS

7th Infantry Division; Headquarters: DUFNITSA

Sector covered: KYUSTENDIL (76th Rgt, Gen TODOROV)-BLAGOEVGRAD

14th Armored Division; Headquarters: SOFIA

Note: There are only 80 tanks at SOFIA; the remainder  
of the forces are deployed in the "zone".

Army Heavy Artillery Brigade; Headquarters: SAMOKOV

Note: There are other smaller units and services giving a total  
strength of not over 56,000 men, excluding the "GUARD" unit stationed  
at SOFIA.

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Yugoslav

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Third Territorial Army Command; Headquarters: SKOPLJE

11th Proletariat Division (Corps Hq: NIS)

Sector Headquarters: ZAJECAR

Sector covered: NEGOTIN-ZAJECAR-KNJAZEVAR

Note: This is one of the seven Infantry Divisions equipped with US arms.

2nd Proletariat Division (Corps Hq: NIS)

Headquarters: NIS

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Sector covered: NIS-PALANKA-PIROT

21st Infantry Division (Corps Hq: NIS)

Headquarters: LESKOVAC

Sector covered: LESKOVAC-VLADICIN HAN-SURDULICA

16th Infantry Division (Corps Hq: KUMANOVO)

Sector covered: TITOV VELES/STIP-KRIVA PALANKA-KUMANOVO

13th Armored Division (Armored-Mechanized Corps)

Note: Total strength including smaller units and services is about 64,000 men.

Other Deployment (BULGARIA)

Second Army Command; Headquarters: PLOVDIV

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3rd Infantry Division; Headquarters: ASENVOGRAD

5th Motorized Infantry Division. Headquarters: PLOVDIV

Note: Two of its regiments are at PAZARZHIK.

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[REDACTED]  
Armored Division; Headquarters: KHASKOVO

Note: In 1956-1957, strong contingents of the division were encamped in the zone of SVILENGRAD.

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Army Heavy Artillery Brigade; Headquarters: PLOVDIV

Third Army Command; Headquarters: SLIVEN; [REDACTED]

8th Infantry Division; Headquarters: KOLAROVGRAD  
[REDACTED]

Motorized Infantry Division; Headquarters: YAMBOL

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Note: In 1956-1957, this division was in the ~~ELKHOTOV~~-~~INDZHE~~. VOYVODA sector.

Mechanized Division; Headquarters: SLIVEN

Note: This was formerly a Mechanized Brigade which was made into a Mechanized Division in 1958 with Soviet equipment.

Army Heavy Artillery Brigade; Headquarters: SLIVEN

Cavalry Division; Headquarters: PLEVEN

#### AIR FORCE

22nd Fighter Division; Headquarters: SOFIA (KOMARITSA)

Operational aircraft: 125-140

Note: The KOMARITSA field is 14 kilometers northwest of SOFIA. It was built in 1951 under the direction of Engineer Corps of the Soviet Army. There are two 3,000-meter concrete runways and very modern installations.

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Bomber Division; Headquarters: PLOVDIV

Operational aircraft: 80

Fighter Division; Headquarters: STARA ZAGORA

Operational aircraft: 125-140

Note: The STARA ZAGORA field was modernized in 1952.

Note: By the State Law of December 1958, an AIR COMMAND is to be formed to "bring the Air Force in line with those of the other units belonging to the Warsaw Military Pact."

Total available aircraft: 620, including the old types of trainers (delivered 1946-1947).

NAVAL BASES: BURGAS, STALIN [VARNA]

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Headquarters: SOFIA

Minister: Gen Ivan MIKHAYLOV

Politburo: Gen PANCHEVSKI

BULGARIAN ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF

Headquarters: SOFIA

AIR FORCE STAFF

Headquarters: SOFIA

Chief of Staff: Maj Gen A. KRILOV

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